

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification

In the Specification:

Extending from the upper forward extent of the stands, 314, are a pair of pivot axis brackets, 325, holding the pivot axes, 326, which carry the moveable guide track support strut assembly, 328. Extending forward from the center of the strut assembly, 328, is a member, 330, pivotally connected at pin, 332, to piston arm, 334, which is extended and withdrawn by action of the piston, 336. The action of the piston, ~~336~~, (336-336a) may be by any means but is preferably pneumatic. The binding wire entering the apparatus, 310, from the wire supply (not shown) at the wire feed drive, 341, is directed by guide track sections 22, 26, 34, and 52, from and to the fastener head, 340, which fastens the wire into a closed loop, typically with a twist knot. The second wire guide tract section, 26, lies in the channel within the lower platen (not shown) attached to the lower following block (not shown). The fourth wire guide tract section 48, lies in a channel within the upper platen below the upper flowing block (not shown).

4. (Previously Amended) The apparatus at Claim 3 wherein each of said bale strap wire fasteners is propelled by an electro-servo motor.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein each of said strap drivers is propelled by an electro-servo motor.
6. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein ~~said support head assembly has six heads~~ said head walls are six in number, each of said heads supporting one bale strap guide track, one bale strap driver and one strap fastener.
7. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein each of said strap fasteners is propelled by an electro-servo motor.
8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 6 wherein each of said strap drivers is propelled by an electro-servo motor.
9. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3 wherein said carriage assembly has three support heads, each of said heads supporting one bale strap guide track, one bale strap driver and one strap fastener.
10. (Original) A bulk material baling strap feed comprising:
a bracket incorporated into a bulk material baler,
a plurality of strap guide tracks supported by said bracket, said tracks controlling the trajectory of bale strap loops, and said tracks being substantially about 9 and 1/4 inches apart;
at least one strap fastener supported by said bracket and operatively aligned with said strap guide tracks, and
at least one pair of strap drive wheels, said wheels driving said strap by frictional contact with said baling strap, said at least one drive wheel pair being in a plane perpendicular to the plane of said baling strap loop said at least one drive wheel pair

being propelled by an electro-servo motor, and said wheels driving said strap through at least two adjacent strap guide tracks simultaneously.

11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the electric servo motor is aligned with its longitudinal axis parallel to the plane of said baling strap loop.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said electric servo motor is aligned with its drive shaft parallel to the plane of said baling strap loop.

13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the electric servo motor is aligned with its drive shaft perpendicular to the plane of the strap drive wheels.

14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein the bracket is configured to space bale strap loops substantially about 9 and 1/4 inches apart when incorporated into a bulk material baling machine.

15. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein said bracket is substantially about 9 and 1/4 inches wide.

16. (Currently Amended) A bulk material baling apparatus comprising:
a bale forming and binding station, a bale binding device, said binding device employing strap for binding a bale of bulk material contained within said binding station, said binding device having a support bracket housing at least one electro-servo strap propulsion unit, ~~at least one~~ a plurality of articulated guide tracks and at ~~least one~~ a plurality of fastening heads;

wherein said binding device receiving the a strap wire through the strap propulsion unit, said propulsion unit impelling the strap through a plurality of adjacent articulated guide

tracks simultaneously, said articulated guide tracks directing the strap in a trajectory

surrounding the bale, said fastener, upon a length of the strap completing a circuit of

the surrounding trajectory, fastening the complete circuit length of the strap into a closed loop about the bale; and

said support bracket being configured to space said closed loop of bale strap substantially about 9 1/4 inches apart from an adjacent bale wire loop.

17. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the bale strap guide tracks, strap propulsion units, propulsion electro-servo motors, fasteners and support brackets are each six in number.

18. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein said strap propulsion units have at least one pair of drive wheels, said wheels being in a plane non-parallel to the plane of said baling strap loop.

19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein said at least one pair of strap drive wheels are in a plane non-parallel to the plane of said baling strap loop.

20. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the a drive shaft of said electric servo motor is parallel to the plane of the bale strap loop.

21. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the a drive shafts of all six of said propulsion units are parallel to the plane of said bale strap loops.

22. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 16 wherein the drive shaft of said electric servo motor is perpendicular to the plane of the said at least one pair of drive wheels.

23. (Original) A method of baling bulk material comprising:
compressing a volume of bulk material;
driving a plurality of adjacent baling straps around said volume simultaneously with electro-servo motors in propulsive frictional contact with said straps through at least one pair of drive wheels; said drive wheel pairs being in a plane non-parallel with the plane of travel of said baling straps;

guiding said straps in a loop around the circumference of said volume of bulk material with guide tracks;

fastening said straps into closed loops; and releasing the bound bale.

24. (Original) The method of Claim 23 wherein said strap loops are spaced substantially about 9 and 1/4 inches apart when incorporated into a bulk material baling machine.